- Provide for Urdu text books for Urdu medium schools and also for those teaching Urdu as a subject.
- KGBVs have been sanctioned in 427 blocks with Muslim population above 20%;
- KGBV guidelines provide for two Urdu teachers, if there is a demand for Urdu as a medium of instruction in those schools.

Class X examination as an option

1909. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government proposes to make class X examination optional;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether several State Governments have resented the move; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) The National Curriculum Framework – 2005 has recommended that the Board should consider, as a long term measure, making the Class-X Examination optional, thus permitting students continuing in the same school (and who do not need a Board Certificate) to take an internal school examination instead. A proposal to make the Class-X Examination optional for students continuing in the same school, for schools affiliated to Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), is under consideration. However, there is no such proposal as far as State Examination Boards are concerned.

Literacy improvement in the country

1910. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number and percentage of illiterate people throughout the country at present, Age-wise and State-wise;

(b) the statistics pertaining to SC/ST/OBC/Women as regards literacy;

(c) whether according to the World Education Report 2005, of the 771 million adult illiterates in the world, 262 million are Indians; and

(d) if so, the steps Government proposes to take to improve literacy scenario?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Based on the decennial Census 2001, a statement indicating the number and percentage of illiterate people SC, ST and women is enclosed (*See* below). The data for OBC has not been estimated during Census 2001.